



**BRITISH
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NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Forests
Chief Forester's Office

FORT ST. JOHN TIMBER SUPPLY ANALYSIS RELEASED

VICTORIA – A new timber supply analysis of the Fort St. John timber supply area in northeastern British Columbia indicates the allowable annual cut could be increased.

"This harvest forecast is technical information I will consider when setting a new allowable annual cut later this year," British Columbia chief forester Larry Pedersen said today.

The analysis forecasts a harvest level of 2.719 million cubic metres per year, a 35 per cent increase from the current allowable annual cut of 2.015 million cubic metres set in 1996. The new forecast consists of two components:

- 1.804 million cubic metres per year of coniferous timber, including 110,000 cubic metres per year of small pine.
- 915,000 cubic metres per year of deciduous timber.

The coniferous harvest forecast is 704,000 cubic metres per year higher than the current allowable annual cut and is projected to remain at that higher level for the long term. The deciduous harvest forecast remains the same for 30 years and then gradually declines to a lower long-term level. The new forecast is similar to the previous analysis in 1995.

The Fort St. John timber supply area includes Fort St. John and Taylor, as well as the First Nations communities of Halfway River, Blueberry River, Doig River and Kahntah.

A public review period begins today with the release of the Fort St. John analysis and the public discussion paper. This allows the public to comment on the Fort St. John timber supply review before the chief forester determines a new allowable annual cut later this year. Public input will be accepted until Aug. 26.

"I will consider comments from the public review along with the analysis when I set the new allowable annual cut," said Pedersen.

The timber supply analysis report is also summarized in a public discussion paper. Both documents are available at the Ministry of Forests Web site at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tsb/tsr2/tsa/tsa11/tsa11.htm> and at the following Forest Service offices:

- Fort St. John forest district, 250-787-5600
- Prince George forest region, 250-565-6100

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A timber supply review is undertaken independently by the chief forester for each timber supply area. The review provides an up-to-date assessment of timber supply in each of British Columbia's 37 timber supply areas and 34 tree farm licences, based on the best available information and current management practices.

For more information on the timber supply review, visit <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tsb> on the Internet.

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Visit the province's Web site at <http://www.gov.bc.ca/> for online information and services.

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